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An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Susan K. Doughty on 6/17/08.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 15 line 3 “; and” has been changed to - , wherein said metal salt is selected from the group consisting of lanthanum salt, ferric salt, and aluminum salt; -; and in line 5 before "." - ; and filtering said water through a diatomaceous earth filter bed or a diatomaceous earth-precoat filter - has been inserted.

Claims 1-3, 7-10, 12, 24, and 27-39 have been canceled.

In claim 4 line 1 “3” has been changed to – 15 -.

In claim 6 line 1 “3” has been changed to – 15 -, and "filter is" has been changed to - said filtering uses -.

In claim 11 line 1 “10” has been changed to - 15 -.

In claim 13 line 1 “1” has been changed to – 15 -; and “said composition is” has been changed to – diatomaceous earth pre-coated hydroxide-gels are -.

In claim 14 line 1 “1” has been changed to – 15 -.

In claim 16 line 1 “1 or” has been deleted; and line 3 and 4 “, magnesium chloride,...magnesium carbonate” has been deleted.

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In claim 17 line 1 “precipitating composition” has been changed to – metal salt -; and in line 2 “different” has been deleted.

In claim 18 line 1 “1 or” has been deleted.

In claim 21 line 1 “1 or” has been deleted, and “composition is” has been changed to – precoated hydroxide-gels are -.

In claim 22 line 1 “1 or” has been deleted; and in line 2 “iron” has been changed to – ferric hydroxides -.

In claim 23 line 1 “1 or” has been deleted; in lines 1 and 2 ”said lanthanum...said water at” has been changed to – metal salt hydroxide-gels comprise -; and in 3 "iron" has been changed to - ferric hydroxides -.

In claim 25 line 1 “1 or” has been deleted.

In claim 26 line 1 “1 or” has been deleted, and "is" has been changed to - comprises -; and in line 2 "rare earth" has been changed to - lanthanum -.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to /Peter A. Hruskoci/ whose telephone number is (571) 272-1160.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Peter A. Hruskoci/
Primary Examiner
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6/17/08